



# Idaho FFA Association

March Issue

*\*Learning to Do   \*Doing to Learn   \*Earning to Live   \*Living to Serve*

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## **Life After FFA... Not One, But Three Steps Ahead**

So what happens after you hang your blue corduroy jacket in your closet for the final time? Were all those years of hard work and dedication at the chapter, district, state and national levels worth it? What about the little things – like chapter officer meetings, livestock judging tryouts, or keeping record books in order? From my experiences as a student at the University of Idaho since retiring my blue jacket, my answer is without doubt, yes.



As a junior studying food science at the UI, I have realized three important abilities that I developed through the FFA that have made my transition as an actively involved college student more successful.

### **1. How to efficiently conduct meetings:**

As an FFA member, you learn what it takes to conduct an efficient and positive meeting for your chapter, officer team, or committee. You realize the importance of an agenda, officer team, parliamentary procedure, and fun activities that make the meeting appealing to everybody present. Along these lines, you realize that you should come prepared, on time, and ready to contribute.

As your life takes you into college and/or work, all this becomes a positive habit and you will be naturally recognized as a leader. Opportunities will arise in student clubs, committees, volunteer and community activities, study groups and more when you will shine as a leader within the group with the aptitude for making the meeting pleasurable and efficient.

### **1. How to successfully manage a project:**

As we all know, the FFA provides endless opportunities to take personal ownership of a project and follow through with it. As a member of the Meridian FFA Chapter, I exhibited market sheep and dairy replacement heifers at the fairs, served on several committees, and helped make our annual orange sales fundraiser a success. In doing these projects, you learn the components to successfully finish what you start: timeliness, teamwork, practice, etc.

Recently, I have been responsible for more projects like class group projects, planning for the UI Ag Days, creating a new campus club (collegiate Farm Bureau), and planning a food science club college bowl this spring. Employers look for students who exhibit these skills as well. For example, at the PowerBar plant where I worked this past summer (there are some cool opportunities in food science), I was asked to implement a color coding system and troubleshooting guides for a production line. For each of these activities, I was confident in my ability because of the skills I gained from my FFA experiences.

### **2. Stay involved... have an eye for opportunities:**

It is no secret that there are some pretty cool opportunities in FFA. I can remember the fun we had going to district livestock judging contests, the state CDE contests in Moscow, the National FFA

Convention in Louisville, and the Washington Leadership Convention in Washington, D.C. Of course the travel was fun, but it was also a great chance to make friends from other chapters and different states and learn about the University of Idaho, the National FFA Organization and our nation's capitol. Every time

I left to one of these opportunities I grew in knowledge, confidence and friendships.

As you move on, continue to look for these opportunities. Believe me - they do exist! After developing an eye for opportunities through the FFA, I've been able to continue traveling and networking in other organizations. Through being involved in the Farm Bureau and the UI food science club, I have been fortunate enough to attend conferences in Hawaii, Indiana, Anaheim, Seattle, and Portland. In addition, I look forward to going to Las Vegas this summer. All of these conferences have been great fun and awesome learning and networking experiences. In fact, some have already led to job offers.

#### **My advice to you...**

As you can see, your FFA experiences will lead to success in your life after FFA. But you only get as much out of it as what you put into it. I'd like to personally encourage you to seize the day and take advantage of the opportunities for personal growth that the FFA offers. Get involved. Make some new friends at the State Leadership Conference in Twin Falls. Have fun and challenge yourself in Career Development Events! Most of all, explore your personal abilities. The bottom line is keep using the skills you learned as an FFA member to make a positive contribution in whatever you endeavor. I promise – you'll be glad you did!

***-Clint Stevenson, Past State President***

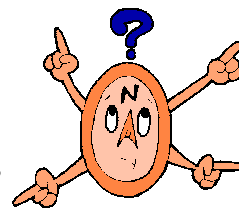
#### **Upcoming Events**

*April 1-3: State Convention in Twin Falls*

*June 8-11: State CDE's in Moscow*

*July 12-13: District Officer Leadership Training  
(TBA)*

#### **Highlights for State Convention**



The State Officer team is stoked about the convention as the time draws near. Here are some of the things that we are all looking forward to:

- Keynote Speaker Rick Haines from the Northern Ag Network
- Remarks from Stacia Berry, National FFA Secretary
- 6 Retiring State Officer Addresses
- Eight Workshops—including one presented by Stacia Berry
- CSI, ACES Blue Jacket Lunch
- Barnyard Wars
- Career Development Events
- State Degree Ceremony
- Talent shows
- State Dance, sponsored by the Buhl FFA Chapter
- And the Installation of the 2004-2005 Idaho FFA State Officer Team

Hope to see you all there for three days of discovery, growth, and good times!

*To see more details prior to convention, check out the conference program for download at [www.idahoffa.org](http://www.idahoffa.org).*



**2002-2003 State Officers  
after a Retiring Address**



## **A Half-Minute with John Meyers**

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*-Hometown Chapter:*  
Highland "Home of the Rams"

*-Birthday:* April 27, 1985

*-Favorite Television Show:* I think television is the bane of society, I find little use for it.

*-SAE Project:* 13 mother cows and numerous market steers

*-Favorite Dinner:* Chicken Fried steak, hashbrowns, gravy over everything, and a huge glass of Milk!

*-Favorite Animal:* I love all animals.

*-What's the highlight for your year as State President?* Visiting so many chapters and getting to see the fire burning in younger members' eyes as they blaze their own trail in our amazing organization. They have so much energy and optimism, I want them to know they can do anything, anything at all that they really work towards.

*-Most memorable moment:* Crocheting with the district presidents at Mid-Winter.

*-Favorite Ice Cream:* Maybe chocolate, maybe vanilla.

*-Hero:* Alma the Younger

*-Hobbies:* I love traveling, especially to chapters in Idaho, and I like reading and writing some too.

*-What's up with that shoulder of yours?* I seriously have no idea, I guess it just doesn't like steer wrestling as much as the rest of me does. Or wrestling with my dad, or swing dancing, or bowling, or throwing snowballs, or rock-climbing, or stretching, or any of the fifteen other things I like to do when it decides to dislocate.

## **FFA Achievements**

- Freshman: -Ordered my first jacket, I wasn't actually a member until Soph. year.
- Sophomore: -Star Greenhand, elected Chapter Alumni-Representative and SUSR District Vice-President  
-Met Trent at DOLT  
-Placed third in District Prepared.
- Junior: -Chapter Secretary and SUSR District President  
-Met Jason & Michelle at DOLT  
-Placed First in District Prepared—but lost at State  
-Served as Nom-Com Chairman
- Senior: -Earned State Degree  
-Placed third at State Prepared Speaking CDE,  
-Elected State President, and began an entirely new life committed to the FFA which I hold very dear.

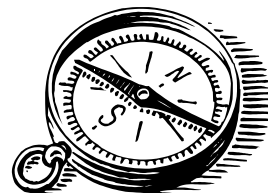
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## **FFA and Agriculture Trivia**

1. Who is the Lieutenant Governor in Idaho?
2. "The incredible, edible \_\_\_\_\_"?
3. Where is a cow's poll?
4. What is the President's emblem?
5. Who is the Keynote Speaker this year for State Convention?
6. What year did was the National FFA Alumni established?
7. Who is the current State Vice President?
8. Which university is the Land Grant university for the State of Idaho?
9. Who was the inventor of the "self polishing" plow?
10. What is the most northern FFA Chapter in the state of Idaho?

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Answers on next page



## Quote of the Month

***What may be done at any time  
will be done at no time.***

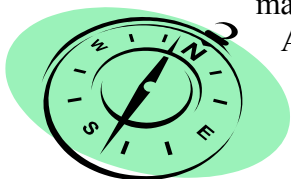
**-Scottish Proverb-**

### Some Words of Encouragement

As the FFA State Leadership Convention comes around the corner, and only a few months remain until the end of the school year, I'd like to give you some advice and encouragement to keep moving and pushing forward in your FFA activities, competitions, recruitment, service projects and leadership opportunities.

To all of you who are competing and participating in the many FFA activities and CDE's at the State Leadership Convention this April, I would encourage you to BE PREPARED! Practice, study and prepare for what you are planning on doing. It feels so good going into a competition or event when you are fully prepared and self-confident in your skills and knowledge.

To all the chapter, district and state leaders, keep up the good work. Strive to recruit more and more FFA members, increase participation, give service to your chapter and community, continue FFA activities, prepare now for your chapter banquet and live each day focusing on you leadership responsibilities and service opportunities. Remember, you are not just a leader for this year only – you are a leader for the rest of your life. Never give up! When you feel frustrated or hopeless, don't give up. Look for help and guidance from others and press on! You are an example and a huge influence to those around you, whether you see it or not – you are the future, so be the best you can be and make the Idaho FFA Association, your FFA chapter and your community proud!



All of you have made a difference in our wonderful state and in the world. You may not realize it now, but many of the lives you affect and influence today or tomorrow will remember your leadership, your example and that blue FFA jacket for years! Continue to grow, strive to succeed and live in leadership!

The Idaho FFA association is truly blessed to have such amazing members and leaders to serve our state.

*-Katie L. Jenkins, State Secretary*

1. Mr. Jim Risch, 2. Egg 3. top of it's cranium 4. The Rising Sun, 5. Rick Haines, Northern Ag Network, 6. 1971, 7. Matt Woodington—from Meridian, 8. University of Idaho, 9. John Deere 10. Bonners Ferry FFA Chapter

Answers

### The Coveted State FFA Degree

There are few honors that can be bestowed upon anyone that is more prized than the State FFA Degree. This year 130 members from across the entire State of Idaho will receive this coveted award out of the current 3500 members. These members represent the diversity of Idaho's agriculture—from dairy to beef, sheep to lawn care, aquaculture to recycling, and outdoor recreation to community development.

In order to qualify for the State FFA Degree, members had to complete the following:

1. Been an active member for two years and possess the Chapter Degree.
2. Invest \$1000 dollars into an SAE project or 300 hours. (Record Books)
3. Demonstrate leadership abilities through speaking, parly pro, or holding an office or committee responsibility.
4. Have a satisfactory scholastic record.
5. Participation in a chapter Program of Activities.





6. Participate in 5 activities above the chapter level
7. Score a 60% or higher on both the State Parly Pro and FFA Knowledge tests.

All in all, it is a great deal of work and those that display the greatest amount of work in their Record Books can become District or State Stars in different categories.

So hopefully that day may come that you, yourself, if you have not yet received your degree; that you may wait apprehensively to walk beneath the white arch and have your name read to the packed convention hall in recognition of your efforts. I hope that when that time comes, if it hasn't already, that you can be as proud and excited as those many members have been that came before.

*-Trent Van Leuven, State Reporter*

### **Featured Activity**

As the school year comes to a close, we find ourselves wondering where all the time has went and anxiously waiting for summer to arrive.

As it gets closer to banquet, old officers will be released and new officers will be installed. It's time to start thinking about chapter activities for summer and the upcoming year. Remember, it's important not to forget about your members during the summer months.

Here's an idea for an activity. Have a summer BBQ/Potluck. Send out invitations to all of the members and upcoming Freshman so they can get to know the other members and get everyone excited for the upcoming year. This is also a good time to hold showmanship workshops to get your chapter's members ready for the fair.

If you're not a chapter officer, and you have a good idea for an activity, tell them!! Officers are always looking for new ideas and this is a great way to get involved.

*-Michelle Jenkins, State Sentinel*

### **A Farewell**

Dear Idaho FFA,

As I write you this article, we are only a couple weeks away from seeing you all in Twin Falls for SLC. Retiring addresses have been turned in for revision, songs have been picked out, and backdrops have been built. It has really overcome me lately that my year of service to you, our Idaho FFA members, is about over.

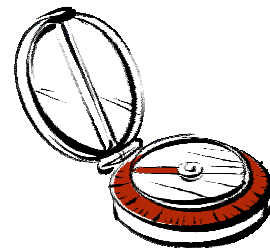
So much has happened this past year. We have met many of you at National Convention, leadership workshops, and my personal favorite, chapter visits! In your eyes I have seen a future so promising, a generation so excited about life that I often find myself smiling with amazement and respect for you and the lives you will lead. In your capable hands lies not only the next year for Idaho FFA, but also the future of our state, our nation, and our world. In your hands lie the decisions that will impact humans for generations to come.

I hope that you understand and know in your heart that anything you desire in your dreams may be yours as long as you work hard for it. You are capable of anything if you push yourself to be great. I promise you that you will feel satisfaction beyond measure if you will work for a purpose bigger than you.

Friends, I wish you the best in the years to come. On behalf of the entire officer team, I encourage you to pursue your dreams. Remember who you are and what you stand for.

See ya on down the trail!

*-John Meyers, State President*



## Final Thoughts

The year for the 2003-2004 Idaho FFA State Officer Team is drawing to a close and will soon be over. As I look back on the year's events the first things that come to mind are not the trips to Sun Valley, Washington D.C. or even Louisville, Kentucky. The first thing that comes into my mind is the amazing FFA members that I have had a chance to meet and get to know over the last twelve months.

When I first received my position as a state officer I really tried to figure out what would be the important times over the course of the year. When would be the times that I would make the biggest difference in one member's life? Would I have to be on stage or would I be sitting, talking and being their friend? It was quite easy to figure out. I remember fondly hanging out with members in the dorms at the University of Idaho. I remember the little moments hanging out with FFA members at the Cenarussa/FFA Day on the Hill. We had so much fun getting lost on the way to the museum. It is finally clear when the important times are. FFA members, thank you for this amazing year I have spent getting to know you. I wish I could have only had time to become friends with even more of you. I wish you the best of luck in the upcoming year.

*-Matt Woodington, State Vice President*

## Thanks

Over the last year, I've been fortunate enough to put together this newsletter each month to help inform the members of the news going on within the State of Idaho. It has been a year of discovery as we worked out the kinks that are associated with an electronic newsletter. It started out a bit rough, but it quickly grew into something that we can truly be proud of.

So I thank all of the members and contributors who put life into this newsletter over the past year. The pictures, articles, and suggestions have

definitely been appreciated—and we only hope that it will grow to be even greater over the years as new ideas are applied.

Also, big thanks to all of the members and advisors statewide that made a special effort to distribute the newsletter to all of their members.

Well, anyhow, hasta la vista!

*-Trent Van Leuven, State Reporter*

## *Scenes from the Year*



First Picture Together



Welding Demo at Potlatch



FFA Members in the Capitol

